

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: AF/C:RKATES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCMAC IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE 0364

DOD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 141270

FOLLOWING REPEAT KINSHASA 5658 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRUSSELS,
PARIS, LUBUMBASHI 01 JUN 78

QUOTE S E C R E T KINSHASA 5658

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, FR, CG

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH FORCES FROM SHABA

REF A) JUNIOR/CUTLER TELECON JUNE 1

B) USCINCEUR MSG DTG 2011140Z JUN

C) KINSHASA 5545

1. CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI HAS CONVEYED TO EMBASSY ITS SERIOUS
CONCERN THAT PULL-OUT OF FRENCH FORCES BEFORE ARRIVAL OF REPLACE-
MENT FORCE MAY TRIGGER PANIC AND DEMAND FOR EVACUATION BY ALL
EXPATRIATES IN LUBUMBASHI AREA. WHETHER OR NOT WITHDRAWAL OF
ONLY TWO-THIRDS RATHER THAN ALL OF FRENCH TROOPS WILL SERVE TO

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AVOID SUCH SITUATION REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

2. FROM HERE IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE GOF HAS
DECIDED TO TAKE THIS STEP, WHICH SEEMS PRECIPITANT TO SAY THE
LEAST AND COULD HAVE VERY SERIOUS IMPACT ON JITTERY EXPATRIATES
NOT ONLY IN SHABA BUT ELSEWHERE AS WELL. AS POINTED OUT REF C,
MASS EXODUS OF EXPATRIATES COULD CONSTITUTE FATAL BLOW TO ZAIRE'S

ALREADY CRIPPLED ECONOMY. FRENCH AMBASSADOR, WHO IS STILL UNINFORMED OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS, FULLY SHARES MY CONCERNS AND HAS JUST SENT ANOTHER MESSAGE TO PARIS URGING GOF NOT TO EXECUTE PULL-OUT.

3. I BELIEVE WE MUST CONTINUE TO URGE BOTH THE FRENCH AND BELGIANS TO RETAIN THEIR TROOPS IN PLACE PENDING THE ARRIVAL OF OTHER FORCES. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, THEN AT LEAST AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO REASSURE THE EXPATRIATES THAT SUCH FORCES ARE EXPECTED VERY SOON.

4. FINALLY, THERE IS THE QUESTION AS TO WHAT EXTENT THE FRENCH DECISION WAS MADE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT. THE LATTER'S REACTION COULD BE QUITE NEGATIVE, AND WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT US PLANES ARE PROVIDING THE TRANSPORT. (MOBUTU IS NOW VISITNG LUBUMBASHI, AND HE MAY BE ON HAND HIMSELF FOR THE WITHDRAWAL IF OUR PLANES IN FACT START ARRIVING THERE TOMORROW.)

5. WHILE I ASSUME WE SHOULD LEAVE THIS MATTER TO THE FRENCH TO SORT OUT WITH THE GOZ, REQUEST GUIDANCE WHICH I MIGHT USE WITH MOBUTU OR WHICH WOULD HELP CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI IN ITS CONTACTS WITH THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY THERE.
CUTLER

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER
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